

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-36, 52-87, 103-138 and 154 are pending in this application, Claims 1, 2-3, 5, 7-8, 10-15, 17-19, 23-25, 27, 28, 34, 36, 52, 56, 59, 62, 68, 70, 74, 76, 79-80, 82-83, 87, 103, 107, 110, 113, 119, 127, 134, 138 and 154 having been amended by way of this present Amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-4, 6-14, 16, 18-21, 24-26, 28-32, 34-36, 52-55, 57-65, 67, 69-72, 75-77, 79-83, 85-87, 103-106, 108-116, 118, 120-123, 126-128, 130-134, 136-138 and 154 were rejected as being unpatentable over Benveniste (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0174690, hereinafter "Benveniste") in view of Nyman et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0037033, hereinafter Nyman") in view of Kennedy (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0057409); and in further view of Liu (U.S. Patent 6,980,537); Claims 5, 15, 17, 22, 23, 27, 56, 66, 68, 73, 74, 78, 107, 117, 119, 124, 125 and 129 were rejected as being unpatentable over Benveniste in view of Nyman, Kennedy, Liu, and in further view of Khun-Jush et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0054294, hereinafter "Khun-Jush"); and Claims 33, 84 and 135 were rejected as being unpatentable over Benveniste in view of Nyman, Kennedy, Liu and in further view of Gubbi (U.S. Patent No. 6,934,752).

The remarks included in the response filed February 18, 2010, are hereby incorporated by reference. The Advisory Action indicates that Liu discloses the last feature in the independent claims namely "each beacon including neighboring beacon information pertaining to beacon information transmission times of neighboring communication stations". The Advisory Action indicates that Liu describes this feature at column 8, lines 28-59), for example, and identifies the problem of hidden terminals (col. 21, line 61-col. 22, line 19).

In light of how the Office is construing the independent claims and the teachings in Liu, each of the independent claims under examination, namely Claims 1, 52, 103 and 154 have been amended by way of the present amendment. The Amendment has been made to further explain the information contained in the beacon, and the purpose for that information. Amended Claim 1, for example, includes the language “a beacon transmitted from a local station includes neighboring communication station information pertaining to a reception time at said local station of a beacon transmitted from the neighboring communication station”.

In a non-limiting example, Figure 8C describes a station 1 “STA1” sends beacon information for STA2, where this beacon includes information about the beacon transmission times of STA0. As a result of conveying this information from STA1 to STA2, STA2 can now be informed about the beacon transmission timing of STA0 so that STA2 can be aware of another hidden terminal and avoid collisions with the hidden terminal.

This is reflected in the claims by requiring that the beacon transmitted from a local station includes neighboring communication station information. That information pertains to a reception time at the local station of a beacon transmitted from the neighboring communication station. Thus, this provides information being conveyed regarding a latest reception time of a beacon from a corresponding station measured from the local station.

As described in the specification [0137]-[0138], a neighboring beacon activity information (NBAI) field is defined as one of information similarly transmitted by the beacon. The NBAI field describes the position (reception time) of the beacon that is actually received by the local station based upon the relative position of the beacon from the local station in the form of a bit map. Specifically the NBAI field indicates that the local station is set to the active state in which it is able to receive a beacon.

At column 8, lines 28-59, Liu describes a node status packet that includes information including the quantity of neighboring nodes associated with that node and a listing of those neighboring nodes. In particular, a node schedules beacon transmission using an initial value and subsequently waits for the transmission time of a succeeding node status packet. (Column 8, lines 40-48.) The network node then transmits a node status packet "k" and waits for an expiration of a time interval T_k . However, this language in Liu does not teach or suggest a beacon from a local station that includes neighboring communication station information pertaining to a reception time at the local station of a beacon transmitted from the neighboring communication station. Liu simply does not have this disclosure, and as a consequence, it is respectfully submitted that amended Claim 1 patentably defines over Liu. None of the other references compensate for this deficiency in Liu regarding the language in the independent claims. As a consequence, it is respectfully submitted that no matter how Liu is combined with Benveniste, Nyman and Kennedy, the combination does not teach or suggest all of the elements of amended Claim 1. Likewise, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 2-36, 52-87, 103-138 and 154 also patentably define over these references for substantially the same reasons discussed above with regard to amended Claim 1.


Consequently, it is respectfully submitted that the application as presently amended patentably defines over the asserted prior art. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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